

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 02096 202053Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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R 202020Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 110

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA JFOOI

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: FORMATION OF BANANA ADVISORY COMMISSION

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 2033

1. GOH ISSUED DECREE ESTABLISHING COMMISSION TO ADVISE THE CHIEF OF STATE ON POLICIES TO FOLLOW CONCERNING BANANA COMPANIES. THE COMMISSION WILL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FACTORS.

A. ACTION THE GOH SHOULD TAKE AGAINST UNITED BRANDS FOR THE POLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DAMAGE CAUSED TO THE COUNTRY BY THE COMPANY'S BRIBE;

B. ADVISABILITY OF MODIFYING THE EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE BANANA COMPANIES TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE ADVISABILITY OF NATIONALIZATION JUOPPOSED TO A RENEGOTIATION OF CONTRACTS;

C. RECOMMENDATION ABOUT THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH HONDURAS SHOULD ACQUIRE THE RAILROAD FROM EL PROGRESO

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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 02096 202053Z

TO TELA AND THE DOCK AT TELA; AND

D. THE ACTIONS OF HONDURAS IN UPEB.

2. THE COMMISSION WILL HAVE 45 DAYS IN WHICH TO PREPARE AND PRESENT A REPORT TO THE CHIEF OF STATE. IT IS CHARGED WITH HEARING THE OPINIONS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, CENTRAL BANK, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK, NATIONAL HONDURAN RAILROADS, NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY, NATIONAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION, HONDURAN TOURIST INSTITUTE AND THE COMMISSION SET UP TO RENEGOTIATE THE DOCK AND RAILWAY CONCESSIONS. THE COMMISSION WILL BE FORMED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHIEF OF STATE, THE ARMED FORCES, THE MINISTRIES OF GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, ECONOMY, LABOR AND NATURAL RESOURCES, NATIONAL AGRARIAN INSTITUTE, SUPERIOR PLANNING COUNCIL, BAR ASSOCIATION, TELA RAILROAD COMPANY UNION, STANDARD FRUIT COMPANY UNION, HONDURAN COUNCIL OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISES, COOPERATIVE BANANA PRODUCERS AND THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT BANANA PRODUCERS.

3. COMMENT: REFTEL REPORTED THAT CHIEF OF STATE HAD TOLD LABOR LEADERS ON MAY 13 HE INTENDED TO FORM A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE FRUIT COMPANIES. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE COMMISSION WILL HAVE DIFFICULT TASK IN PREPARING SUCH A COMPLEX AND IMPORTANT REPORT IN ONLY 45 DAYS. APART FROM THE INTRINSIC PROBLEMS IN PREPARING SUCH A REPORT, THE MAKEUP AND SIZE OF THE COMMISSION STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGREED-UPON PROPOSALS WILL BE DIFFICULT.
SANCHEZ

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